

Tracks Through the Years

A timeline of significant dates in the history of tracks

1800s – Grass, dirt and cinder (flattened pieces of burned wood or coal) tracks were the dominant track surfaces.

1912 – The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) was established to oversee and amend regulations involving athletics, including outdoor track surfaces.

1950s – Synthetic track surfaces made from a combination of asphalt and rubber or asphalt, sand and hay began to appear.

Mid-1960s – 3M, Tartan and Chevron 440 Tracks create the first polyurethane surface.

1968 – The 1968 Mexico City Olympics are the first global track and field event to be held on a firm synthetic surface.

1969 – Mondo introduces the first pre-manufactured vulcanized natural rubber track at a time when other manufacturers are producing track systems that use base mat structural sprays, polyurethane sandwich systems, polyurethane full-pour systems and vulcanized rubber sheet.

1976 – Mondo is an official track of the Montreal Olympic Games.

1980 – Mondo is an official track of the Moscow Olympic Games.

1983 – Mondo develops the Fine-Tuned Panel, the first multi-density layered track system, which combines a firm top layer for speed with a compressible bottom layer for comfort. FTP provides better cushioning for athletes and facilitates more intense training sessions.

1984 – Mondo is the official track of the Los Angeles Olympic Games.

1986 – Mondo refines its Fine-Tuned Panel and introduced the first double durometer track system that could be custom tuned to accommodate longer training regimens. This became the industry standard.



1996 Atlanta Olympic Stadium



2000 Sydney Olympic Stadium

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1988 – Mondo is an official track of the Seoul Olympic Games.

1988 – Mondo introduces a hydraulic banked track, which features two curved track sections that can be banked for high-speed running events, enabling runners to maintain their speeds going into turns for faster overall times. The hydraulic system raises and lowers the running surface in only a few minutes.

1992 – Mondo Super X Competition Track is designed for speed for the Barcelona Olympic Games.

1996 – Mondo fine-tunes its Super X Competition Track to meet the pinnacle of IAAF requirements and ensure record-breaking performances at the Atlanta Olympic Games.

1998 – Mondo introduces tracks designed with “deforming geometries,” which help enhance the dual durometer (a material that has two or more levels of flexibility) technology of the previous decade. The signature waffle backing is larger and angled to increase shock absorption and amplify the return of energy to the athlete, making the track faster and more comfortable.

1999 – Mondo introduces its high-cushion, high-speed Super X Performance Track, which improves shock absorption by 50 percent over urethane tracks. Because U.S. tracks are used 90 percent of the time for training and 10 percent for competition, the track is designed to be suitable for daily training as well as for competition.

2000 – Mondo’s Super X Performance Track is the competition track of the Sydney Olympic Games.

2004 – Mondo’s Super X Performance Track is the competition track of the Athens Olympic Games.

2007 – Mondo introduces Mondotrack, the newest generation of vulcanized rubber track surfaces. Changes to the track surface and underlayment increase vertical deformation, reduce pressure on the foot and improve overall athletic performance.

2008 – Mondo’s Mondotrack is the competition track of the Beijing Olympic Games.

2012 – Mondo’s Mondotrack is the competition track of the London Olympic Games.



2004 Athens Olympic Stadium



2012 London Olympic Stadium